

An overlooked record of the Malleefowl in the interior of Western Australia – Storr (1985, p 14) noted the northern limits of the Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata* in the mid-eastern interior of Western Australia as 'north to Yeelirrie and east nearly to the Ernest Giles Range. Far eastern highlands (13 km SW Mt Palgrave)'. This brief synopsis implies a discontinuity in occurrence between Ernest Giles Range and Warburton, and this is shown on the map published in Johnstone and Storr (1998, p 35).

Between November 1895 and June 1896, S.G. Hübbe travelled from South Australia to Western Australia via Oodnadatta, seeking a well-watered stock route between South Australia and the recently discovered goldfields (Hübbe 1897).

On 9 May 1896, at lat. 26° 29' 54", 'in vegetation consisting of poor mulga, mallee, spinifex, and wiregrass [we] saw the only Lowan hen (native pheasant) seen on the trip, although we saw several of their nests and obtained eggs between the Musgrave and Everard Ranges [in South Australia]'. (Hübbe 1897, p 36).

On 7 May Hübbe named Lake Gillen, on 8 May his party travelled 18 miles on a bearing of c. 222°, and on 9 May 11½ miles had been travelled (on a bearing of c. 230°) when the Malleefowl was seen. This information indicates that the Malleefowl was

observed to the east of Ida Range (c. lat. 26° 30').

This record, although published by Cleland (1938, p 38), has been overlooked by WA ornithologists, presumably because it was included in a paper ostensibly concerning South Australia. Cleland fixed the location of the Malleefowl sighting as 'Near Mount Laurie and Ida Range'.

Hübbe's record marginally reduces the gap between the SW Mt Palgrave record and the main distribution of the Malleefowl by 50 km to c. 300 km.

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